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STATUS OF BIRDS IN USHUAIA BAY, ARGENTINE TIERRA DEL FUEGO, IN SPRING AND SUMMER

DAVID F. PARMELEE[1] AND PAMELA C. RASMUSSEN[2]

Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455 (DFP); Museum of Natural History and
Department of Systematics and Ecology, The University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas 66045-2454 (PCR)

ABSTRACT A summary of observations of birds of Ushuaia Bay, Argentina and vicinity made independently by the authors and other investigators from 1973 to 1989 is presented. Data on occurrence in the Ushuaia Bay area are presented for 69 species, and nesting records are given for 24 species. We present distributional data for the following species that are infrequently reported from the Beagle Channel area: *Puffinus gravis; Pelecanoides urinatrix; Accipiter bicolor; Circus cinereus; Calidris canutus; Arenaria interpres; Calidris fuscicollis; Chionis alba; Asio flammeus; Notiochelidon cyanoleuca; Hirundo rustica;* and *Cistothorus platensis.* Three other species typically found at high altitudes in summer were reported: *Cinclodes oustaleti; Muscisaxicola flavinucha;* and *Melanodera xanthogramma.*

Key words: Birds; Tierra del Fuego; Beagle Channel; Ushuaia Bay; Argentina.

RESUMEN Se presentan un sumario de observaciones hechos independemente por los autores y algunos otros investigadores sobre las aves de la Bahía Ushuaia, Argentina y el vecino entre 1973 y 1989. Se obtuvieron datos de distribución sobre

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[1] Present address: Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 454012, Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-4012.

[2] Present address: Room 336 NHB MRC 114, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560.

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un total de 69 especies de la bahía, y se incluyen registros y los detalles de nidificación para 24 especies. Se presentan registros para las especies siguientes que son encontradas infrecuentamente en el Canal Beagle: *Puffinus gravis; Pelecanoides urinatrix; Accipiter bicolor; Circus cinereus, Calidris canutus, Arenaria interpres; Calidris fuscicollis; Chionis alba; Asio flammeus, Notiochelidon cyanoleuca; Hirundo rustica* y *Cistothorus platensis*. También se presentan registros para tres especies típicos de alturas altas en verano: *Cinclodes oustaleti; Muscisaxicola flavinucha* y *Melanodera xanthogramma*.

Palabras claves: Aves; Tierra del Fuego; Canal de Beagle; Bahía Ushuaia; Argentina.

To interpret changes in distribution and abundance of avian species resulting from direct human disturbance and environmental perturbation of an area, as well as to assess the need for conservation action, baseline data obtained from the same area prior to these events are prerequisite. Knowledge of current distributions is also necessary in order to determine from the study of palaeoavifaunal material whether regional species composition and status have varied in response to climatic fluctuation and other influences. Several recent publications (Humphrey and Bridge, 1970; Keith, 1970; Duguy, 1973; Brown et al., 1975; Jehl and Rumboll, 1976; Erize et al., 1981; Clark, 1984, 1986; Chebez and Gómez, 1988) have provided anecdotal information on the birds of Ushuaia Bay, Ushuaia Peninsula, and adjacent areas of the Beagle Channel, in Argentine Tierra del Fuego, but these have been restricted for the most part to the most noteworthy records, and none has taken a systematic approach. Other publications have summarized the distributional status of birds in nearby regions (e.g., Markham, 1970, 1971; Barros, 1971, 1976; Pisano, 1971; Cooke and Mills, 1972; Jehl, 1973; Jori et al., 1974; Parmelee and MacDonald, 1975; Wallace, 1991); information from these may or may not be relevant to Ushuaia Bay. Even for many common Fuegian bird species, nesting records and other natural history data are surprisingly scarce. We here summarize ornithological observations made by the authors and unpublished notes of several other observers on status, distribution, and nesting biology of birds of Ushuaia Bay between the months of October and February that supplement the monograph *The Birds of Isla Grande (Tierra del Fuego)* (Humphrey et al., 1970) and Clark's (1986) field guide, as well as other published literature, with regard to bird observations from Ushuaia Bay. The present paper is the first to summarize records of each species made during the study period, thus providing a more complete picture of avian diversity and abundance during spring and summer at Ushuaia Bay than has previously been available.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Parmelee visited Ushuaia Bay, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina on the following dates. 1973: 30–31 Jan., 14–18 Oct., 6–15 Nov., 5–9 Dec., 16–20 Dec.; 1975: 30–31 Jan., 14–18 Oct., 5–9 Dec.; 1977: 13–22 Dec.; 1978: 18–21 Jan.; 1979: 9–11 Feb.; 1980: 9–11 Feb., 16–18 Mar.; 1989: 19 Jan.–25 Feb. With P. S. Humphrey (PSH) and N. López (NL), Rasmussen's field work was conducted in Ushuaia Bay in 1986 on 4–5, 7–11, 14–17, 24, 26–29 Jan., 10, 14 Feb. Unpublished records for 16 days of field work in November 1979 by PSH and M. C. Thompson (MCT), and for 10 days of field work in Ushuaia Bay 22 Dec. 1980–6 Jan. 1981 by PSH and B. C. Livezey (BCL) are also included.

We recorded birds at Ushuaia Bay on beaches, Ushuaia's waterfront, from a ship's deck, and from Zodiac inflatable boats. Some observations refer to nameless islands or to island clusters, so the area was subdivided (Fig. 1) into the following areas. Area A includes the town's waterfront,

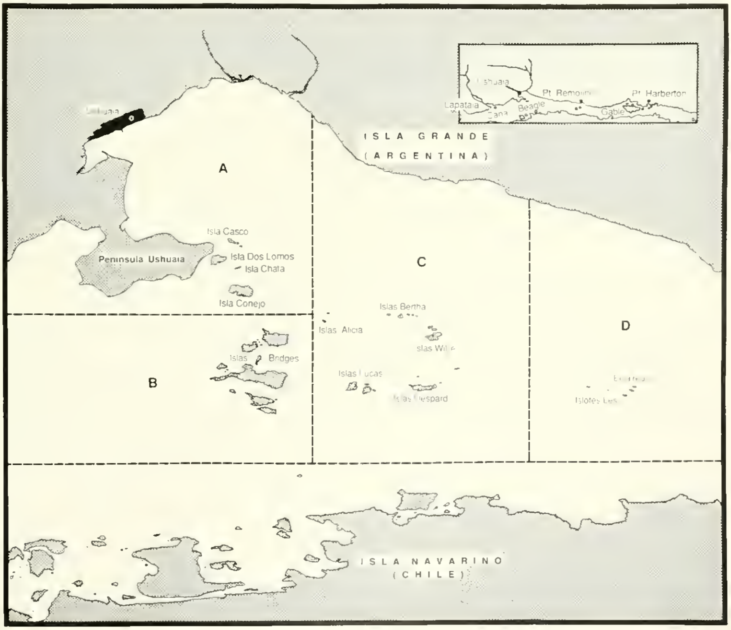

Fig. 1. Map of the Ushuaia Bay area, showing the township, the peninsula, and the four subdivisions of the bay referred to in this paper. Inset (170 km/cm) shows relationship of Ushuaia to nearby points mentioned in the text. The Lancha Packewaia archaeological site is located on the shore 14 km east of the eastern end of Ushuaia town.

Ushuaia Peninsula, and nearby islas Casco, Dos Lomos, Chata, and Conejo; this accessible and relatively protected area was the one most frequently visited. Area B includes Islas Bridges. Area C includes islas Alicia, Bertha, Willie, Lucas, and Despard. Area D, the most remote and least often visited, includes Eclaireurs and Islotes Les.

Specimens taken by Parmelee are now housed at the Barrick Museum, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; those taken by PSH, Rasmussen, MCT, BCL, NL, and R. N. P. Goodall are now at the Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas. Species nomenclature follows that of Sibley and Monroe (1990). For nesting observations, "heavily incubated eggs" refers to eggs long incubated and with large embryos, as opposed to "lightly incubated eggs," which have small embryos. Where possible, information on present status of a species is compared with that inferred from archaeological midden remains from the nearby Lancha Packewaia site (Rasmussen et al., 1994).

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNTS

Spheniscus magellanicus
Magellanic Penguin

Records.—1973: 12 Nov. (5), 18 Dec. (3); 1975: 6 Dec. (4); 1977: 17 Dec. (8 in one group and several other small groups), 18 Dec. (3); 1979: 5 Nov. (1), 8 Nov. (1 oiled), 17 Nov. (30–40, many immatures, PSH and MCT); 1980 (PSH and BCL): 27, 29 Dec. (2); 1981: 2 Jan. (6, PSH and BCL); 1986: seven dates in January (1–3); 1989: three dates in February (3–6).

Remarks.—More common in the channel east of Ushuaia Bay, where on 13 February 1986 100–200 (90–95% subadults) were seen (PSH, PCR, and NL) near a colony (Clark, 1986) 54 km E Ushuaia. This was the second most abundant species in the Lancha Packewaia archaeological site just east of the bay (Rasmussen et al., 1994); a colony existed on Península Ushuaia, but was destroyed around 1940 by construction of an airstrip there.

Podiceps major
Great Grebe

Records.—1973: 10 Nov. (a probable immature in Area A); 1975: 17 Oct. (pair in breeding plumage near the peninsula); 1980 (PSH and BCL): 22 Dec. (6), 24 Dec. (4), 25 Dec. (20), 26 Dec. (5), 27 Dec. (8); 1981 (PSH and BCL): 2 Jan. (2), 4 Jan. (9), 6 Jan. (6); 1986: 7 Jan. (1), 14 Jan. (2), 24 Jan. (1), 26 Jan. (2), 27 Jan. (3), 29 Jan. (2), 14 Feb. (1).

Remarks.—We found no evidence of local breeding; nests on freshwater (Clark, 1986).

Diomedea melanophris
Black-browed Albatross

Records.—Both immatures and adults were seen in Ushuaia Bay almost daily December through February. A maximum of 87 was seen in the bay on 10 November 1979 (PSH and MCT).

Remarks.—Common on all major waterways in Tierra del Fuego (Barros, 1971; Adams and Templeton, 1979; Clark, 1986); this was the third most common species in the Lancha Packewaia archaeological site (Rasmussen et al., 1994).

Macronectes giganteus
Antarctic Giant Petrel

Records.—At the Ushuaia waterfront at least a few, and often more than 30, swam or flew near vessels each day. On 13 February between Ushuaia Bay and Remolino, several hundred were seen.

Remarks.—Most individuals seen were subadults with entirely dark heads. From 1976 on, we looked in vain for the Hall's Giant-Petrel (*Macronectes halli)*, known from northern Tierra del Fuego (Venegas and Jory, 1974), and near Cape Horn in February (Clark et al., 1992). This species was fairly common in the Lancha Packewaia archeological site (Rasmussen et al., 1994).

Puffinus gravis
Great Shearwater

Records.—1975: 16 Oct. (2 flying separately low over Ushuaia Bay; W. R. Fraser).

Remarks.—Uncommon to rare in Fuegian waters (Humphrey et al., 1970; Cooke and Mills, 1972; Clark, 1986), but common off the Atlantic coast of Tierra del Fuego (Clark et al., 1992). Although there are very few records for the Beagle Channel, it appears to have been rather common at the Lancha Packewaia site from 4215 ± 305 to 280 ± 85 ybp (Rasmussen et al., 1994).

Puffinus griseus
Sooty Shearwater

Records.—1975: 6 Dec. (1 flying); 1989: 14 Feb. (2 separate individuals feeding with Magellanic Penguins, Black-browed Albatrosses, and Chilean Skuas).

Remarks.—Numerous flocks of thousands were observed along the Beagle Channel as far west as Harberton on 24 Jan 1992 (DFP). Abundant in parts of the Beagle Channel in January (Adams and Templeton, 1979) and February (Humphrey et al., 1970). Fewer individuals of this species were found in the Lancha Packewaia archaeological site than of the preceding species, however (Rasmussen et al., 1994).

Fulmarus glacialoides
Southern Fulmar

Records.—1979 (PSH and MCT): 10 Nov. (20), 14 Nov. (12).

Remarks.—Winters in the Beagle Channel; common in some years and rare in others (Clark, 1986). Has been found in midsummer (February) in the Beagle Channel (Clark et al., 1992), and several occurred in the Lancha Packewaia site (Rasmussen et al., 1994).

Pelecanoides magellani
Magellanic Diving-Petrel

Records.—A few seen singly on most visits to the bay. High counts were: 1979: 17 Nov. (50 in afternoon, PSH and MCT); 1980: 29 Dec. (up to 25, PSH and BCL); 1981: 2 Jan. (up to 25, PSH and BCL); 1986: 13 Feb. (100–200, in Beagle Channel between Ushuaia Bay and Remolino).

Remarks.—In general very few were seen on early morning visits to Ushuaia Bay, while many were seen during afternoon visits. Parmelee looked for but did not find any nesting burrows on many islands in the bay, although this species breeds on adjacent Isla Navarino (Johnson, 1965). Very common locally from September to February in Isla Grande (Clark, 1986).

Pelecanoides urinatrix
Common Diving-Petrel

Record.—1981: 10–20 Mar. (1 flew on board a ship in the bay during this time interval; collected by R. N. P. Goodall).

Remarks.—Little-known in Tierra del Fuego. This is the first Beagle Channel record of which we are aware (Humphrey et al., 1970). May breed at Islas Diego Ramirez (Clark et al., 1992).

Phalacrocorax brasilianus
Neotropic Cormorant

Records.—1979 (PSH and MCT): 8 Nov. (2), 17 Nov. (1); 1980: 22 Dec. (1, PSH and BCL); 1986: 14 Jan. (2), 15 Jan. (1), 16, 27 Jan. (3).

Remarks.—Earnshaw (1973) recorded an unspecified number at the bay. Nests on Isla Gable (Clark, 1986) and Isla Hoste (Adams and Templeton, 1979), but seems rather uncommon in the bay; only two were found at Lancha Packewaia (Rasmussen et al., 1994).

Phalacrocorax magellanicus
Rock Shag

Remarks.—Abundant and conspicuous in the bay. In 1973, about 20 pairs nested at Islas Bridges; of 12 nests checked on 15 Nov., two held three eggs and seven held two eggs each. In 1977, several birds were on nests in Area C. In 1986, a colony existed on the northernmost of the Islas Bridges. This was the fourth most common avian species in the Lancha Packewaia archeological site (Rasmussen et al., 1994).

Phalacrocorax atriceps
Imperial Shag

Remarks.—Large numbers were seen daily in the bay, and several breeding colonies were recorded. 1973: 12 Nov. (several hundred shags building or repairing nests on Islas Alicia, Area C); 18 Dec. (that colony deserted by next observation on 18 Dec.); 1975: (colony at Islas Alicia empty, but active colonies on two of the Eclaireurs-Islotes Les islands, area D), 6 Dec. (most nests held small young, a few had eggs); 1977: (Islas Alicia colony half occupied, two colonies in Area D nearly fully occupied, a smaller colony on a nearby island: 17–19 Dec., nests held small young or heavily incubated eggs); 1986: 5 Jan. (several hundred at Islas Alicia colony); 1989: (Area D colony active, Area C colony had few if any nesting birds). Several hundred were feeding singly and in groups in the Beagle Channel between Ushuaia Bay and Remolino on 13 February 1986.

The "*atriceps*" morph usually comprised 1% or less of the population; however, on 17 November 1979, the ratio was 15 "*atriceps*" to 400 "*albiventer*" (PSH and MCT)—nearly 4% "*atriceps*." All shags collected or seen well were clearly assignable to one of the two morphs, contradicting Devillers and Terschuren's (1978) conclusion that the Fuegian population is variable with numerous intermediates. Imperial Shags of indeterminable morph were the most abundant bird species in the Lancha Packewaia midden as long ago as 4200 ybp (Rasmussen et al., 1994).

Nycticorax nycticorax
Black-crowned Night-Heron

Records.—1977: 18 Dec. (1 at waterfront); 1979: 13 Nov. (1, PSH and

MCT); 1980 (PSH and BCL): 22, 25 Dec. (1); 1986: 10 Feb. (6).

Remarks.—In Tierra del Fuego, more common on streams and ponds (Adams and Templeton, 1979; Clark, 1986) than along the coast.

Theristicus melanopis
Black-faced Ibis

Records.—1975: 16 Oct. (flock of 7, flock of 3 at Islas Bridges); 1976: 16 Dec. (pair at Islas Bridges), 17 Dec. (pair at Islas Bridges, pair over the bay in Area C); 1977: 16 Dec. (pair over Islas Bridges), 17 Dec. (pair over Islas Bridges, pair over the bay in Area D); 1980 (PSH and BCL): 22 Dec. (2), 24 Dec. (3), 27 Dec. (8); 1981: 4 Jan. (8, PSH and BCL); 1986: 10 dates in Jan. (1–2 daily at the peninsula): 10 Feb. (10).

Remarks.—Common throughout Tierra del Fuego (Earnshaw, 1971), and nests in Isla Gable (Clark, 1986), but not very common near Ushuaia Bay.

Chloephaga poliocephala
Ashy-headed Goose

Records.—1973: 10 Nov. (nest with 6 eggs); 1975: 17 Oct. (pair); 1977: 15 Dec. (several with *Chloephaga picta)*, 18 Dec. (flock); 1980 (PSH and BCL): 24 Dec. (1), 25 Dec. (pair with 1 young), and 30 Dec. (2); 1986: 4 Jan. (4), 14 Feb. (2).

Remarks.—Rather uncommon at Ushuaia Bay, but abundant in much of southern Tierra del Fuego (Weller, 1975; Clark, 1986).

Chloephaga picta
Upland Goose

Remarks.—Abundant and conspicuous on tidal flats and the peninsula; less common on islands in the bay where the following nestings were recorded. 1973: 12 Nov. (brooding female with 7 hatchlings, female with 4 heavily incubated eggs at Isla Casco), 13 Nov. (four nests with 3, 4, 5, and 6 fresh eggs respectively at Islas Bridges), 13 Dec. (nest with 5 heavily incubated eggs, pair with 5 large downy young at Islas Bridges); 1975: 6 Dec. (5 heavily incubated eggs at Islas Alicia), 8 Dec. (nest with 2 downies and 3 hatching, nest with 3 heavily incubated eggs, nest with 4 heavily incubated eggs, pair with 7 small young, pair with several strong-flying young at Islas Bridges); 17 Dec. (nest with 4 eggs, nest with 8 eggs, 1 pipped, pair with 14 flightless young, pair with 6 flightless young, pair with 1 small downy, female with 3 small downies at Islas Bridges), 1977: 19

Dec. (pair with several fairly large young on the peninsula); 1979: 5 Nov. (2 nests on an island in the bay with 6 eggs, one nest in vegetation just above the beach, the other farther inland); 8 Nov. (on Isla Casco, nest with 3 eggs, nest with 6 eggs); 17 Nov. (nest with 6 eggs on Islas Willie); 25 Nov. (on Islas Bridges, nest with 5 eggs, nest with 4 eggs, PSH and MCT). These data give a mean brood size at Ushuaia Bay of 6.14 young per pair ($s = 4.10$, $n = 7$). Weller (1975) found up to 13 young per brood ($\bar{x} = 4.4$, $n = 122$) on Isla Grande, while on Isla Hoste Adams and Templeton (1979) found no more than two young per pair of this species.

Chloephaga hybrida
Kelp Goose

Remarks.—Conspicuous and common in the bay. At Islas Bridges the following nestings were observed: 1973: 10 Nov. (nest with 6 eggs), 14 Nov. (nest with 5 downies and 1 unhatched egg, nest with 6 heavily incubated eggs, nest with 4 heavily incubated eggs, nest with 6 pipped eggs), 15 Nov. (nest with 6 eggs); 1973: 18 Nov. (pair with 1 small young); 1975: 16 Oct. (nest with 7 eggs, pair with 3 downies), 1977: 19 Dec. (pair with 6 fairly large young); 1979: 17 Nov. (2 nests on Islas Willie with 4 eggs each, PSH and MCT); 1986: 4–8 Jan., 14 Jan. (pair with 4 young seen daily on the peninsula). Weller (1975) found few of this species on the Beagle Channel.

Anas specularioides
Crested Duck

Records.—Seen in small numbers at the waterfront, peninsula, and islands in the bay. From one to six were usually seen, but up to 35 were seen each day in December 1980 and January 1981 (PSH and BCL). A pair with three small young (one collected) were seen near the peninsula on 19 December 1977.

Remarks.—Common in the Ushuaia area (Jehl and Rumboll, 1976), but there are few breeding records for the Beagle Channel (Weller, 1975; Adams and Templeton, 1979).

Tachyeres pteneres
Flightless Steamerduck

Remarks.—Abundant and conspicuous at Ushuaia Bay, where from a few to more than 50 were recorded nearly each day. Nesting records include: 1973: 12 Nov. (nest with 4 eggs only 40 m from a nest of *Tachyeres patachonicus* at Isla Casco), 13 Nov. (nest with 5 fresh eggs on a clifftop at Islas Bridges), 18 Dec. (nest with 7 eggs, nest with 4 eggs at

Isla Casco); 1977: 17 Dec. (pair with at least 5 chicks in the bay); 1986: 14 Jan. (nest with 4 eggs, two of which hatched that day, one was addled, and one young died during hatching). In the Beagle Channel west of Ushuaia Bay on 10 Nov. 1973 a nest with six fresh eggs was found only 35 m from a nest of *T. patachonicus*, supporting Humphrey et al.'s (1970) assertion that the two species often breed close together. This and the following species were both represented uncommonly at the Lancha Packewaia archaeological site (Rasmussen et al., 1994).

Tachyeres patachonicus
Flying Steamerduck

Records.—1975: 17 Oct. (flock of 6 in the bay near the peninsula), 8 Dec. (pair at Isla Conejo); 1979 (PSH and MCT): 5 Nov. (5 pairs), 8, 12 Nov. (4), 17 Nov. (2); 1980 (PSH and BCL): 22 Dec. (several), 24 Dec. (3 pairs and a single), 26 Dec. (16), 27 Dec. (30), 29 Dec. (6); 1981 (PSH and BCL): 2 Jan. (4), 4, 6 Jan. (15); 1986: 27 Jan. (2).

Remarks.—Far less common than *Tachyeres pteneres* in the bay. In 1973, on 12 November, a nest with four heavily incubated eggs was found on Isla Casco. On 10 November 1973 a nest with eight eggs was found on a small island in the Beagle Channel. (See *T. pteneres* above.)

Anas sibilatrix
Chiloe Wigeon

Records.—1979: 24 Nov. (1 collected at Islas Bridges, PSH and MCT); 1980: 25 Dec. (3 adults and 9 young in the bay, PSH and BCL).

Remarks.—Previously rarely recorded along the Beagle Channel (Humphrey et al., 1970; Keith, 1970; Weller, 1975), but seems common in the Ushuaia area (Chebez and Gómez, 1991).

Anas georgica
Yellow-billed Pintail

Records.—1978: 19 Jan. (1 at waterfront); 1980: four dates in Dec. (12–50, PSH and BCL); 1986: four dates in Jan. (up to 30).

Remarks.—Common in much of Tierra del Fuego (Weller, 1975; Clark, 1986).

Vultur gryphus
Andean Condor

Records.—1980: 26 Dec. (3, PSH and BCL).

Remarks.—Regularly descends to coastal Tierra del Fuego (Clark, 1986).

Cathartes aura
Turkey Vulture

Records.—1973: 12, 15 Nov. (1 flying above Islas Bridges); 1977: 15 Nov. (1 at Ushuaia); 1979: 8 Nov. (1, PSH and MCT); 1980 (PSH and BCL): 26 Dec. (8 at the peninsula), 30 Dec. (1); 1981 (PSH and BCL): 2, 4, 6 Jan. (1 at the peninsula); 1986: 4, 7 Jan. (3 at the peninsula), 11, 27 Jan (1), 10 Feb. (1), 14 Feb. (4).

Remarks.—Abundant at slaughterhouses and dumps in Ushuaia.

Buteo polyosoma
Red-backed Hawk

Records.—1986: 11 Jan. (1), 15 Feb. (1), both in open grass on the peninsula.

Remarks.—Common in southern Tierra del Fuego (Clark, 1986).

Geranoaetus melanoleucus
Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle

Records.—1980: 29 Dec. (1, PSH and BCL); 1981: 6 Jan. (1, PSH and BCL).

Remarks.—Less common around Ushuaia Bay than at nearby localities.

Accipiter bicolor
Bicolored Hawk

Records.—1986: 15 Feb. (juvenile male in a small tree in an open area on the peninsula).

Remarks.—This species is usually found in forest, and was previously thought rare in Tierra del Fuego. One midden specimen was recovered from the Túnel archaeological site just to the east of Lancha Packewaia (Humphrey and Rasmussen, unpubl. data).

Circus cinereus
Cinereous Harrier

Records.—1975: 8 Dec. (1 dead at Islas Bridges); 1980: 27 Dec. (1 at the bay, PSH and BCL).

Remarks.—Generally uncommon in Tierra del Fuego, but has been observed on islands south of the Beagle Channel (Barros, 1976; Clark, 1986).

Milvago chimango
Chimango Caracara

Records.—1977: 17 Dec. (1 at Islas Bridges); 1980 (PSH and BCL): 22 Dec. (1), 26 Dec. (5), 27 Dec. (2), 29 Dec. (1), 30 Dec. (5); 1981: 4 Jan. (5, PSH and BCL); 1986: Jan., Feb. (1–10 on most days).

Remarks.—Abundant at the waterfront; less common on islands of Ushuaia Bay. Represented at the Lancha Packewaia archaeological site by two elements (Rasmussen et al., 1994).

Phalcoboenus albogularis
White-throated Caracara

Records.—1977: 15 Dec. (1 in the city dump); 1979: 6 Nov. (1), 7 Nov. (2).

Remarks.—Uncommon (Clark, 1986) in the Ushuaia area, usually at the city dump (R. N. P. Goodall, pers. comm.); we know of no records from the islands in Ushuaia Bay.

Polyborus plancus
Crested Caracara

Records.—1980 (PSH and BCL): 26 Dec. (2), 30 Dec. (8); 1986: 10 Jan. (2), 24 Jan. (1).

Remarks.—Very common in Tierra del Fuego (Clark, 1986), although rather uncommon in the Beagle Channel area (Adams and Templeton, 1979); two elements of this species were found at the Lancha Packewaia archaeological site (Rasmussen et al., 1994).

Falco peregrinus
Peregrine Falcon

Records.—1973: 11 Nov. (1 feeding on prey on the mast of a beached vessel in Ushuaia Bay); 1986: 24 Jan. (2 at Ushuaia Bay).

Remarks.—Although previously considered scarce (Humphrey et al., 1970; Keith, 1970), this species is rather common in Tierra del Fuego (Clark, 1986).

Falco sparverius
American Kestrel

Records.—1986: 15 Jan. (1), 16 Jan. (2), 24, 26, 27, 29 Jan. (1), 14 Feb. (5).

Remarks.—Very common (Clark, 1986) in Tierra del Fuego, but apparently sporadic at Ushuaia Bay.

Haematopus leucopodus
Magellanic Oystercatcher

Remarks.—Common and conspicuous on the islands in Ushuaia Bay where it nests in driftwood and debris just above the high tide line on sandy beaches. Nests were found only in Area A, but probably also nests at Islas Bridges in Area B where a pair behaved as if eggs or young were close by on 18 December 1973. Even more common in northern Tierra del Fuego (Clark, 1986).

Haematopus ater
Blackish Oystercatcher

Remarks.—*Haematopus ater* appears to be more abundant than *H. leucopodus* at Ushuaia Bay, as at Isla Hoste (Adams and Templeton, 1979). In Areas A and B it bred on lichen-covered rocky prominences, unlike the previous species.

Vanellus chilensis
Southern Lapwing

Records.—1977: 14, 18 Dec. (pair on the peninsula); 1980 (PSH and BCL): 25, 26 Dec. (2); 1986: 16 Jan. (1), 26 Jan. (several).

Remarks.—Common around Ushuaia (Weller, 1975; Clark, 1986), but not on the peninsula.

Charadrius modestus
Rufous-chested Plover

Records.—1975: 17 Oct. (flock of 5 and a single on the peninsula); 1977: 16 Dec. (1 male at Islas Bridges), 17 Dec. (1 female that probably had eggs or young in same area); at the peninsula in 1986: 8, 16 Jan. (1), 17 Jan. (7), 14 Feb. (20).

Remarks.—Common (Barros, 1976; Adams and Templeton, 1979; Clark, 1986).

Arenaria interpres
Ruddy Turnstone

Records.—1981: 4 Jan. (flock of 7 on Islas Willie, PSH and BCL).

Remarks.—Uncommon in northern Tierra del Fuego (Clark, 1986) and not previously recorded from the Beagle Channel to our knowledge.

Calidris canutus
Red Knot

Record.—1979: 17 Nov. (1).

Remarks.—We know of no previous records for southern Isla Grande.

Calidris fuscicollis
White-rumped Sandpiper

Records.—1973: 18 Dec. (1 at Isla Casco); 1975: 17 Oct. (flock of 3 on the peninsula), 6 Dec. (single and flock of 3 at Islas Alicia); 1977: 17 Dec. (flock of 3 in Area D), 21 Dec. (flock of 4 on Isla Casco); 1979: 17 Nov. (4, PSH and MCT); 1986: 10 dates in January (1–150).

Remarks.—This species is much more regular in Ushuaia Bay than Clark (1986) indicated for the austral channels. On calm days often foraged on floating masses of kelp. Not found by Jehl and Rumboll (1976) in the Ushuaia area in October– November; perhaps large numbers arrive later.

An immature male in heavy body molt collected at Ushuaia Bay on 21 December 1977 shows an extensive, ongoing replacement of primaries and wing coverts, a condition previously thought to take place only from January onwards (Parmelee, 1992).

Gallinago gallinago
Common Snipe

Records.—1973: 15 Nov. (3 on the northernmost of the Islas Bridges), 18 Dec. (1 each at islas Casco and Conejo); 1977: 17 Dec. (3 at Islas Bridges); 1979: 25 Nov. (4 on Islas Bridges, PSH and MCT); 1981: 4 Jan. (1, PSH and BCL); 1986: 4, 10, 15, 16, 17 Jan., 10 Feb. (1), 14 Feb. (2).

Remarks.—Very common, usually found in grassy areas close to the tide line.

Chionis alba
Snowy Sheathbill

Records.—1973: 12 Nov. (9); 1975: 6 Dec. (4); 1977: 17 Dec. (10); all in Area D.

Remarks.—Frequented Imperial Shag colonies; scarce in the Fuegian region (Clark, 1986).

Catharacta chilensis
Chilean Skua

Records.—Seen on all visits to the waterfront and throughout Ushuaia Bay. High counts were: 1980: 26 Dec. (25, PSH and BCL); 1986: 7 Jan. (25).

Remarks.—As noted by Adams and Templeton (1979) at Isla Hoste, they often soared almost out of sight above the mountains surrounding Ushuaia. We did not find the Southern Skua (*Catharacta antarctica*), which is unconfirmed for Tierra del Fuego (Devillers, 1978). Scattered pairs (up to 6 per island) of *C. chilensis* breed on the larger islands in Area B where the following were recorded: 1973: 13 Nov. (nest with 2 eggs at Islas Bridges); 1975: 8 Dec. (nest with an egg and newly hatched chick, 3 nests each with heavily incubated eggs at Islas Bridges); 1977: 17 Dec. (3 nests each with heavily incubated eggs), 19 Dec. (nest with 2 chicks).

Larus scoresbii
Dolphin Gull

Remarks.—Very common throughout the area. Breeding records are: 1979: 25 Nov. (at least 100 nests with eggs on Islas Bridges); 1986: 7 Jan. (30 chicks, one small downy, the rest two-thirds to nearly grown, near a colony of Kelp Gulls, *Larus dominicanus*, at Isla Conejo). Upon disturbance of the colony, adults surrounded young and herded them to the water, whereas on Magdalena Island, chicks in a disturbed colony were herded on a cliff above the water (Devillers, 1977).

Larus dominicanus
Kelp Gull

Remarks.—Abundant and recorded daily in the entire Ushuaia Bay area. Nesting records include the following: 1973: 13 Nov. (many newly constructed but mostly empty nests on Isla Conejo), 15 Nov. (nest with 3 fresh eggs, nest with one fresh egg); 1977: 17 Dec. (pair with 2 downy young at Islas Bridges; 1978: 20 Jan. (pair with 3 fledglings at the waterfront); 1986: 9 Jan. (active colony with many nests and eggs, two pipped, on Isla Conejo); two of the nests observed closely had pipped eggs. On 25 February 1989, only one individual was recorded. Fairly common at the Lancha Packewaia archaeological site (Rasmussen et al., 1994).

Larus maculipennis
Brown-hooded Gull

Records.—1978: 20 Jan. (2 at waterfront), 21 Jan. (1 at peninsula); 1980 (PSH and BCL): 24, 26 Dec. (6); 1981 (PSH and BCL): 4 Jan. (1); 1986: five dates in Jan. (up to 10 in the bay).

Remarks.—About 50 in basic plumage were on the waterfront on 16 February 1986. Irregular in southern Tierra del Fuego (Barros, 1971), and much more common to the north (Clark, 1986).

Sterna hirundinacea
South American Tern

Remarks.—Common at Ushuaia Bay, singly or in small groups, frequently along the waterfront of Ushuaia. According to locals, tern colonies appear in unexpected places and then disappear after a season or two. We found no colonies in the bay until mid-December 1977, when about 2,000 pairs occupied Isla Casco, a small island covered with a dense growth of grasses and shrubs, probably because no sheep were present. Nests were situated in the densest cover and, judging by proximity of nests, the high spots were favored. Egg laying culminated about 20 December. Most nests had two eggs, others had single eggs, and only one had three. In 1986 a colony of several hundred nested on Isla Chata, and in 1989 several hundred nested in Area D.

Columba livia
Rock Pigeon

Remarks.—In the 1960s considered hypothetical for Isla Grande (Humphrey et al., 1970), but now common in Ushuaia (Keith, 1970; Jehl and Rumboll, 1976; Clark, 1986), where several were seen each day from 1979–1981 (PSH, MCT, BCL); three were seen on 7 January 1986.

Asio flammeus
Short-eared Owl

Records.—1986: 25 Jan. (1 in mid-morning in bushes and grass on the peninsula).

Remarks.—Few previous published records exist for the Beagle Channel area (Olrog, 1948; Barros, 1976; Clark, 1984; Chebez and Gómez, 1991; Clark, 1986).

Cinclodes patagonicus
Dark-bellied Cinclodes

Records.—Common and conspicuous (Venegas, 1976; Adams and Templeton, 1979; Clark, 1986) on rocky shores and sandy banks of Ushuaia Peninsula and adjacent islands. While usually only a few pairs were seen on each visit, as many as 30 were seen daily in January and February 1986. Nesting records include: 1975: 8 Dec. (nest with eggs located nearly a meter back in a burrow in a sandy bank at Islas Bridges); 1977: 16 Dec. (in the same bank, nest with two downy young a half meter back in a sand burrow), 19 Dec. (adult with food entered a sand burrow in a high bank on the western edge of Ushuaia Peninsula).

Cinclodes oustaleti
Grey-flanked Cinclodes

Records.—1986: 15 Jan. (1); 16 Jan. (20); 17 Jan. (30); 24 Jan. (12); 26 Jan. (1); 27 Jan., 10 Feb. (12); 14 Feb. (20); all on shores of the peninsula except that seen on 26 January at Isla Conejo.

Remarks.—All six specimens collected of this uncommon (Clark, 1986; Narosky and Yzurieta, 1987) species were juveniles, suggesting that the large numbers seen were the result of post-breeding dispersal from the mountains to the coast.

Cinclodes fuscus
Bar-winged Cinclodes

Remarks.—An abundant species (Adams and Templeton, 1979) observed frequently around Ushuaia, but infrequently on the islands in Ushuaia Bay where a nest with three young with scant down was found on 15 November 1973 30 cm back in a rock crevice near the beach at Islas Bridges.

Aphrastura spinicauda
Thorn-tailed Rayadito

Records.—1986: 16, 17 Jan. (1), 14 Feb. (1–5 daily in tussock grass on the peninsula).

Remarks.—Typical of bush and forests in southern Tierra del Fuego (Venegas 1976, Clark 1986), but also occurs in tussock grass on Isla Hoste (Adams and Templeton, 1979), Isla Barnevelt (Reynolds, 1935), and Islas Diego Ramirez (Wallace, 1991).

Muscisaxicola macloviana
Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant

Records.—1980: 26 Dec. (1, PSH and BCL); 1986: Jan., Feb. (up to 20 daily in open habitats, especially near the tide line on the peninsula).

Remarks.—Very common (Clark, 1986); one flightless fledgling collected 16 January 1986.

Muscisaxicola flavinucha
Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrant

Records.—1979: 13 Nov. (3); 1986: 10 Feb. (10 juveniles).

Remarks.—In flocks with *Muscisaxicola macloviana* on the beach of the peninsula; four collected had eaten mainly berries. The flock of 10 juveniles unaccompanied by adults suggests dispersal of young from mountains to the coast in late summer.

Lessonia rufa
Patagonian Negrito

Records.—1979 (PSH and MCT): 8 Nov. (pair on Isla Casco), 17 Nov. (pair on Islas Willie). Recorded daily along most beaches of Ushuaia Bay.

Remarks.—Common and conspicuous along beaches at the bay; breeds at Islas Bridges. 1973: 15 Nov. (nest with 3 fresh eggs); 1977: 17 Dec. (nest with 3 fresh eggs).

Notiochelidon cyanoleuca
Blue-and-white Swallow

Records.—1980: 30 Dec. (6 nesting in a road bank on an outcrop west of the delta of Río Olivia, PSH and BCL); 1986: 5, 11, 16 Jan. (1 on the peninsula).

Remarks.—More common in northern Isla Grande than near the Beagle Channel (Clark, 1986).

Tachycineta meyeni
Chilean Swallow

Records.—1973: 17 Dec. (pair nesting in building); 1975: (1 at the peninsula); 1980, 1981 (PSH and BCL): 9 dates in Dec. and Jan. (2–25); 1986: 7 dates in Jan. and Feb. (up to 30).

Remarks.—The common swallow of the Ushuaia area (Keith, 1970).

Hirundo rustica
Barn Swallow

Records.—1979: 2 Nov. (1 found dead); 17 Nov. (1, Islas Willie, PSH and MCT).

Remarks.—Uncommon in coastal areas of Isla Grande (Clark, 1986).

Cistothorus platensis
Sedge Wren

Records.—1973 (northernmost island of Islas Bridges): 13 Nov. (adult with recent fledgling), 15 Nov. (single adult); 1979: 25 Nov. (1 on Islas Bridges, PSH and MCT); 1980: 27 Dec. (1 at the bay); 1986 (in scrub at the peninsula): 16 Jan. (group of 8, several fledglings soliciting food), 27 Jan. (5), 14 Feb. (7), 15 Feb. (5).

Remarks.—Considered uncommon to rare in the Fuegian region (Humphrey et al. 1970; Clark, 1986; Fjeldså and Krabbe, 1990), but we found it locally common around Ushuaia Bay.

Troglodytes aedon
House Wren

Records.—1973: 19 Nov. (several adults carrying food); 1986: 5 dates in January and February (1–4 on the peninsula).

Remarks.—Fairly common (Adams and Templeton, 1979; Clark, 1986) around Ushuaia.

Turdus falcklandii
Austral Thrush

Records.—1973: 13 Nov. (1); 1977: 16 Dec. (2); 1980 (PSH and BCL): 27 Dec. (12), 30 Dec. (15); 1981 (PSH and BCL): 4 Jan. (1), 6 Jan. (2); 1986: nine dates in January and February (up to about 30).

Remarks.—Common near Ushuaia where a fledgling was noted on 19 December 1973.

Anthus correndera
Correndera Pipit

Records.—1977: 19 Dec. (1 on the peninsula); 1979: 25 Nov. (1 on Islas Bridges, PSH and MCT); 1981 (PSH and BCL): 4 Jan. (1), 6 Jan. (2); 1986: 12 Jan. (4 in short grass near town).

Remarks.—More common in northern Isla Grande (Clark, 1986) where short grass is abundant.

Passer domesticus
House Sparrow

Remarks.—Recently established but now common in Ushuaia and other populated areas (Keith, 1970; Clark, 1986). Found daily by PSH and BCL, and up to 10 were recorded on six dates in January and February 1986 in Ushuaia; we did not find it on the unpopulated Ushuaia Bay islands.

Sturnella loyca
Long-tailed Meadowlark

Records.—1977: 19 Dec. (1 on the peninsula); 1979 (PSH and MCT): 25 Nov. (pair on Islas Bridges); 1986: 14 dates in Jan. and Feb. (up to 15).

Phrygilus patagonicus
Patagonian Sierra-Finch

Records.—1980: 30 Dec. (1 at the bay, PSH and BCL); 1986: 13 Feb. (1 in shrubby vegetation on the peninsula), 14 Feb. (5).

Remarks.—More common in forest and its edge (Adams and Templeton, 1979; Rasmussen, pers. obs.).

Melanodera xanthogramma
Yellow-bridled Finch

Records.—1979: 12, 13 Nov. (10–20 on coast in heavy snow, PSH and MCT).

Remarks.—Uncommon (Clark, 1986; Fjeldså and Krabbe, 1990) and normally found above timberline, rarely along beaches in winter. Their presence on the coast in mid-November likely resulted from an unseasonably late, heavy snowfall.

Zonotrichia capensis
Rufous-collared Sparrow

Records.—1973: 12 Nov. (3 fledglings on Isla Casco), 13, 15 Nov. (fairly common on islands in Area A); 1975: 17 Oct. (flock of 3 on the peninsula); 1979 (PSH and MCT): 8 Nov. (nest with 3 young on Isla Casco), 17 Nov. (pair with a juvenile on Islas Willie); 1980 (PSH and BCL): 24, 27 Dec. (2), 30 Dec. (15); 1981 (PSH and BCL): 4, 6 Jan. (2); 1986: daily (15 or more).

Remarks.—By far the most abundant landbird in the Ushuaia Bay area, and very common throughout the Fuegian region (Adams and Templeton, 1979; Clark, 1986).

Spinus barbatus
Black-chinned Siskin

Records.—1980: 30 Dec. (2 on the peninsula, PSH and BCL); 1981 (PSH and BCL): 4 Jan. (3), 6 Jan. (6); 1986: eight dates in January (1–20).

Remarks.—More common near Ushuaia than on Isla Hoste (Adams and Templeton, 1979).

DISCUSSION

The status of several bird species at Ushuaia Bay (e.g., *Diomedea melanophris, Macronectes giganteus, Fulmarus glacialoides, Phalacrocorax brasilianus, P. magellanicus, P. atriceps, Tachyeres pteneres, T. patachonicus, Milvago chimango, Larus dominicanus)* apparently has not changed dramatically in the past few thousand years, judging by the similarity of their current abundance and that inferred from archaeological middens at Lancha Packewaia (Rasmussen et al., 1994) and Túnel (Humphrey and Rasmussen, unpubl. data). A few other species seem to show changes in abundance. These are *Spheniscus magellanicus*, a species that was recently exterminated as a breeding bird from Ushuaia Bay; *Puffinus gravis*, common in the Lancha Packewaia site but now rare at Ushuaia Bay; and *Puffinus griseus*, now seasonally abundant but rare in the Lancha Packewaia site.

Records for a total of 69 avian species in the Ushuaia Bay area are presented; the most notable are summarized here. There are few records of *Puffinus gravis* in the Beagle Channel, despite its being a common species off the Atlantic coast. The specimen of *Pelecanoides urinatrix* appears to be the first record of this species for the Beagle Channel. Raptors were generally scarce around Ushuaia Bay, but two species generally uncommon in Tierra del Fuego, *Accipiter bicolor* and *Circus cinereus*, were present there. Three species of sandpipers little known for the region were recorded: *Calidris canutus; Arenaria interpres;* and *Calidris fuscicollis*, the last abundantly. Several other species generally uncommon in southern Tierra del Fuego but recorded from Ushuaia Bay include *Chionis alba, Asio flammeus, Notiochelidon cyanoleuca, Hirundo rustica*, and *Cistothorus platensis*. Three species normally found at high elevations in summer were recorded: *Cinclodes oustaleti; Muscisaxicola flavinucha;* and *Melanodera xanthogramma*. The first two species appear to have been juveniles dispersing from the natal grounds, while the latter species was probably forced to low elevations by heavy snowfall.

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